

## **CITY OF MATTOON, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE**

April 21, 2016

The City of Mattoon will be conducting a public meeting to discuss two Federal Grant Applications.

The first grant is funded by the US Department of Transportation. The program is called TIGER VIII which stands for "Transportation Improvements Generating Economic Recovery". The grant program emphasizes criteria such as Neighborhood Revitalization, Multimodal Transportation Opportunities, Quality of Life, Environmental Sustainability, Safety, Innovation, and Partnerships.

The City of Mattoon has assembled a series of street improvements that best fits with the rating criteria. The grant application includes:

1. Street Resurfacing and Sidewalk Repairs on Dewitt Avenue from Logan Street to 14th Street.
2. Street Resurfacing and Sidewalk Repairs on Western Avenue from 21st Street to 26th Street.
3. Street Resurfacing and Striping of Dedicated Bike Lanes on Richmond Avenue from Logan Street to Holiday Drive. The work on Richmond Avenue is part of a connection from the existing bike trail to the Cross-County Mall. The work also includes widening the existing sidewalk on the east side of Logan Street from Richmond Avenue to the bike trail to establish a 10' wide pedestrian/bicycle shared-used path.

The second grant also includes federal funds administered by the the Illinois Department of Transportation. The program is called ITEP which stands for the "Illinois Transportation Enhancements Program". The grant program emphasizes alternative transportation, roadside beautification, and transportation related historical preservation.

The City of Mattoon and the City of Charleston intent to submit a joint application to complete the following objectives:

1. Place an asphalt surface on the gravel portion of the existing bike trail from Logan Street in Mattoon to 'E' Street in Charleston. The purpose of this improvement is to upgrade the existing trail to a more "transportation friendly" facility.
2. Extend the west end of the trail in Mattoon from 10th Street to 16th Street. This will connect the trail to the YMCA, Downtown Mattoon, the Amtrak Train Depot, the Greyhound Bus Station, and Dial-A-Ride.
3. Connect the existing bike trail to the Cross-County Mall via a 10' wide asphalt trail from the intersection of Richmond Avenue & Holiday Drive directly north to the existing trail. The purpose of this connection is to provide trail users with

access to additional parking, restrooms, drinking water, and a temperature controlled "rest area".

4. Connect the existing bike trail to Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital, and the Coles County Council on Aging, via shared-use bicycle/vehicle lanes on CR800N and Loxa Road.

5. Connect the existing bike trail to the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum at the Coles County Fairgrounds in Charleston. This connection will also provide trail users with access to additional parking, restrooms, drinking water, and a well maintained "rest area".

6. Connect the existing bike trail to Downtown Charleston and Eastern Illinois University via a combination of dedicated bike lanes and shared-use vehicle/bicycle lanes on 6th Street and 7th Street.

The sum of these improvements would be a direct bicycle route from EIU to the Amtrak Train Depot in Mattoon.

The long-term expansion of the existing facility is intended to inter-connect a variety of destinations in the Mattoon-Charleston area. The City of Mattoon completed a connection to Douglas-Hart Nature Center in 2015. The City of Charleston is working on future phases of the bike trail expansion to connect from EIU to Lake Charleston, and from Lake Charleston to Fox Ridge State Park.

Both projects would be expected to occur in 2017 if the grants were approved.

The City of Mattoon will be conducting a public meeting at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 in the City Council Chambers on the 2nd Floor of City Hall at 208 North 19th Street in Mattoon. This meeting will be part of the regularly scheduled City of Mattoon Public Works Advisory Board Meeting held at that time.

A second public meeting for the ITEP Grant will be conducted by the City of Charleston. The date for that meeting will be announced separately.

Thank you,



Dean Barber  
Public Works Director